



OFFICE of GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

April 9, 2015 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No.: 201500375

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION
8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]

This responds to your January 31, 2015 request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

As you are aware, Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to release documents. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

You contacted our office with concerns about an administrative appeal that you filed with Interior in October of 2014. As we discussed, you appealed the search that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) executed in response to your request No. [REDACTED]. I understand that you have received no response to your appeal.

I reached out to DOI and sought status of your appeal and also requested a date by which the agency expects to respond to your appeal. DOI declined to provide an estimated date of completion for your appeal; it is the agency's position that the FOIA does not require the agency to provide such information for appeals. However, the agency did provide status of your request by informing me that there are currently 201 appeals in the queue for processing ahead of yours. The agency also provided me your FOIA appeal tracking number which is [REDACTED].

I understand that this information does not address your substantive concerns about BIA's response to your request. If you are not satisfied with Interior's action on your appeal, feel free to contact OGIS again and we will do our best to assist you.



██████████
April 9, 2015

Page 2 of 2

I hope that this information about your appeal with DOI is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS; we will now consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

/S/

Nikki Gramian, Acting Director
Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

cc: Darrell Strayhorn, FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer, DOI

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.